

REVIEW.

THE PRINCESS: A Medley, by Alfred Tennyson, Post-Lovell.

PRINCE ANON was lucky enough to stumble upon friends, and was conducted straightway to the king, his father's, royal tent, where, being ragged, dispirited, and torn with grief, all one day, he lay down, and, to the sudden surprise of his friends, and the courtiers, he died. The king, who was old and decrepit, and the two old kings began to weep; the young captains flung their glittering teeth; the huge broad-bearded barons heaved and blew (a cloud?) and slain with laughter rolled the golden sphere.

King Anonymous dismissed King Gama in safety, having received in like safety Prince Anon, whom, however, he designated as a drag-gled mawkin that tends her bristled grunter in the sludge. Then Cyril came forward; explanation followed, and reconciliation; whereupon Cyril took the prince to see Psyche, where she lies.

But will not speak, nor stir;
A stone-shot off; we enter in, and there
Among piled arms and rough accoutrements,
Puffed right, wrapt in a soldier's cloak,
Like some dead sculpture draped from head to foot,
And pushed by rude hands from its pedestal,
All her full length upon the ground she lay:
And at her head a follower of the camp,
A char'd and wrinkled piece of womanhood,
Sat watching like a watch by the dead.

After much talk "drest up poetically," a proper understanding between Cyril and Psyche appears to have been arrived at, the basis of which, very much to the young lady's credit, was the recovery, on the part of Cyril, from the princess Ida—the cruel Ida, who will keep her back, and take and make her hard, her babe, her sweet Aglaia, her one child—(Ah! what might that man not deserve of her who gave her back her child?) The reader may now, therefore, in his discernment and long experience of poetical life, look upon the preliminaries of this couple's settlement as waiting only the signature of the contracting parties to the protocol; and he need give himself little concern to know how she gradually withdrew from the company and custody of the "char'd and wrinkled piece of womanhood," and resumed her position of her own sphere. Indeed, it is time to think of Prince Anon; for the genial giant, Arac, is at hand, with his big brothers, who vapours and cries "death five times in a very short discourse, and finally agrees to settle the squabble by fighting in the lists, fight against fifty."

When the spinning King Gama understood they meant tilting, his soul was up in arms to have a portion in the mêlée, a small taste of the mill; which Arac and the other two big ones altogether mislaid—so they unceremoniously rode off, the old king shrieking—

To her false daughters in the pool
But the more he shrieked, the more they would
not come back. Meanwhile there was a great
gathering round King Anonymous, as well of
the one faction as the other; and they found
that a herald had been sent thrice to the University!

Three times he went:
The first he blew and blew, but none appear'd;
He better'd at the door, and none came to the next.
An awful voice within had warn'd him thence:
The third, and those eight daughters of the plough
Came saluting through the gates, and caught his hair,
And so belabour'd him on rib and cheek
They made him wild!

All these things notwithstanding, the tourney
went forward, for Arac was not a man to be
bulled, nor his brothers, nor even the cataleptic,
yellow-haired prince, whose papa even was
addicted to the argumentum baculum, and

Himself would tilt it out among the lads!
But as there were fifty large moulded men on
each side empanopied and plumed, King
Anonymous was not permitted to wag his bald
nose among them; and the hundred went to
work with becoming alacrity, whilst fluttering
scarfs and ladies' eyes, if it were anything more
than a dream, stimulated the fray until at length
came Arac, who wound up the tourney, and
left Anon weltering on the plain, and all his
sons weeping.

The catastrophe is now at hand. No expert
reader of love tales believes that not a spark of
life is left to the hero—"a small spark, all
the rest of his body cold." Ida, the reader is
well aware, is destined to detect the latent hope
of his recovery, and in due time to
have the sufferer conveyed to bed, and for the
leech, and tend the feverish pillow; else, how
could there be the inevitable wedding at the
end of the tale? In this conviction, he peruses
with patience all the preliminary talk, the pro-
tracted stipulations and arrangements for the
restoration of Aglaia, and the renewal of the
friendship of Psyche and Ida, together with the
ovation of the latter princess for her victory (the
two great cases close by her), whose hymn on
the roof is given at length, not unlike that of
the great dame of Lapidoch.

In due time all the maidens are lodged and
tucked up; the maidens passing home till
happier times—a few of those held sagacious being
appointed to the broth and gruel department, and
thus was their fair College turned to hospital.

Love in the sacred halls
Held carnival at will; and, in the street
With showers of roses, roses on maid and man.
It cannot be doubted but the tail of some
of these showers of roses (may say good
people catch a sprinkling!) fell upon Ida and
Anon. Let the reader judge. It is the low
meaning of Prince Anon.

I shall die to-night.
Stoop down, and seem to kiss me ere I die.
Whether Ida did so or not, the poet
bashfully leaves to inference and disquisition.
That she turned, and paused, and stooped to
on the record: it is further declared that out
of languor leapt a cry; but as the meaning is not
absolutely definite, and we are only further
told that Anon's spirit closed with Ida's at the
lips, opinions will fluctuate until fresh docu-
ments are produced to throw a distinct light on
the question.

I shall die to-night.
Stoop down, and seem to kiss me ere I die.
I could no more, but lay like one in trance.
That heart his brother's from the links of death;
And cannot speak, nor move, nor make one sign,
But lies and dreads his doom. She turn'd—she
paused—
She stoop'd—and out of languor leapt a cry:
Lo! my passion from the links of death;
My spirit closed with Ida's at the lips,
Till back I fell, and from mine arms she rose
Glowing all over noble shame, and all
Her face's self split from her like a robe.
And left her woman, lovelier in her mood
Than in her mould that other, when she came
From barren depths to conquer all with love;
And down the streaming crystal dropt; and she
Far-flung by the purple island slept.
Naked, a double light in air and wave,
To meet her Graces, where they deck'd her out
For worship without end; nor end of mine
Statelike, for thee! But meek she glided forth,
Nor glanced behind her, and I sank and slept,
Fell'd thro' and thro' with Love, a happy sleep.

Although this mythological extract seems to
draw the Princess Ida towards the true re-

matic conclusion, we proceed to give another
specimen or two in justice to the author of this
medley; and to make amends for the passion of
one, we propose to give a scientific, geological
description, in another, as follows:

Many a little hand
Glanced like a touch of sunshine on the rocks
(That afternoon the Princess rode to take
The dip of certain strata to the north.)
Many a light foot shone like a jewel set
In the dark drag; and then we turn'd,
About the cliffs, the copse, out and in,
Hammering and clinking stony names
Of shale, and hornblende, rag and trap and tuff,
Amphibolite and trachyte, till the sun
Grew broader towards his death, and fell, and all
The rays bright came out above the lava.
Our last extract of any length is a burst of
defiance, concluded with something sarcastic
and satirical. It is the oration or harangue of
the Princess Ida:

What fear ye, braver? am not I your head?
On me, me, me, the storm first breaks: I dare
All these male thunderbolts: what is it ye fear?
Fence! there are those to brave ye, and they come:
If not, myself were like enough to O girls,
To unfurl the maiden banner of our rights,
And, clad in iron, burst the ranks of war,
Or, falling, protomartyr of our cause,
Die: yet I blame ye not so much for fear:
Six thousand years of fear have made ye that
From which I would redeem ye: but for those
Which this hubbub—you and you—I know
You face there in the crowd—do—morrow morn
We hold a great convention: then shall they
That love their voices more than duty, learn
With whom they deal, disarms in shame to live
No wiser than their mothers, O girls,
Live chattle, mincers of each other's fame.
Full of weak poison, turnpits for the clown,
The drunkard's football, laughing-stocks of Time,
Whom we are in their hands and in their heels,
But fit to flaunt, to dress, to dance, to thrum,
To tramp, to scream, to burnish, and to scurr,
For ever slaves at home and fools abroad.

Thus spake the Princess: and we conclude
our extracts with a sample of moral sentiment
and rural politics, elsewhere illustrative of our
homicidal heroine

And cheek and bosom brake the wonderful bloom
As of some fire against a stormy cloud
When the wild passion rights itself, the rich
Flame, and his anger reddens in the heavens.

But to trifle no longer: this is the subject
matter of Mr. Tennyson's medley. Now, let us
ask, is it worthy of the time and study of a rea-
sonable man? Would it be creditable to a
taste, common sense, and ordinary capacity of a
girl at school? Well, it may be conceded, the
fable is no great affair. But the style? The
splendid language, the melody, the imagination:
what shall we say of these things? what, of the
exuberance of beauty in art, and the charms of
choicest nature? what, of a full tide of ideal
wealth, a harvest of intellectual jewels; with
many more claims to admiration? This may be
said: selections may be arrayed; prize morsels
brought forward. But we have something to
produce in the way of abatement. We can
match these passages with mannerism; with
affectation; with false grammar; with eccen-
tricity. Above all, we allege a marvellous
lack of sympathy in our author—we look in
vain for that deep, fervent humanity, which
marks the true poet; we turn away from subjects
in which we take no concern—we feel no
warmth in that which is all of an icy coldness.
Let us realize. Does any body understand how
an echo can be like a ghostly woodpecker? Who
comprehends, who cares, whether a horse's ear
and eye are twins? or whether the ear is twin
to the eye—the eye to the eye, or the nose
of kin to all? Say, too, whether an angry
man's face grows long and troubled like a rising
moon? Tell us, ye that know, when a college
gown could clad a rosy blonde like an April daffo-
dily; or, *mirabile dictu*, how bottom gasses float
in crystals current. Reader, didst ever see a
bottom apple?—here—adroit! adroit! even a
bottom apple? Mr. Tennyson, what do you mean
by a bottom apple? We pause for a reply.

Here is a piece of affection: a mannerism.
Let us see.

Now, scarce three paces measured from the mound,
We stumbled on a stationary voice.
And "Stand, who goes?" "Two from the palace!" I.
The second two? they wait," he said, "pass on;
His highest wake."

Ellipsis, they say, is a rhetorical figure, by
which something is left out: the meaning, by
something to make the meaning intelligible. We
will attempt to supply the ellipsis, albeit few
sentences are worth reading twice, according to
Dr. Johnson; yet, we will try what can be done
towards the disentanglement of this elliptical
imbroglio. The meaning seems to be: We,
Florian and Prince Anon, heard a voice, the
voice of a sentinel at his post; and it exclaimed,
stand, who goes? I replied two from the
palace, two gentlemen. Thereupon either the
palace added "there were a second two, who
passed in this way, not long ago," or possibly,
Prince Anon asked if there were, or were not,
"a second two, not long ago, or were not,"
meaning Cyril and Psyche. In either
case, the stationary voice said, "they wait;" but
you may "pass on," and although we are
away from his Highness' tent, something tells
me he is on the point of waking. We could
produce ambiguities of this sort innumerable.
But this must suffice. We are everywhere
encountered with drolleries, such as "bus'd
the milking maid," elsewhere more delicately
called "inoculated;" a pickaxe, as after some
hesitation we should have concluded, is named
"a rough kex to break the star'd mosaic;"—
but happily for our critical flame, a botanical
friend informs us that kex is hemlock, which we
are to imagine growing between the joints of
the mosaic, upheaving, dislocating, breaking
and confounding the design.

Blanche, "who had been wedded wife, and
knew mankind," boasts of feeding the princess
Ida, "not with pigeon's milk—but with the
milk of every muse. Virgineus Musarum
chorus!"

O, Juno Lucina! O, Mrs. Gampaspé! is this
fit pap for a sucking princess? *Luc tibi novum*,
Master Alfred.

Here, too, are some phrases not unlike the
milk; nebulosities of the milky way: "the
heires takes and ruins all; she took it and she
flung it; they will take her, they will make her
hard; she's yet a colt, take, break her (nay,
why not revolve her? why not milk her?); a
pillar of electric cloud sucking up the drains
lakes and brooks, and cracks and splits; and
thus all nature's cradles being creased, and all
germens split at once,—let's hear what poor
Tom says to Alfred Tennyson—Bless thee from
whirlwinds, star-blasting, and taking!"

Paulo majora canamus. Look at this exqui-
site passage.

Love, like an Alpine herbe! hung with tears
By some cold morning glacier; frail at first
And feeble, all unconscious of itself,
But such as gathered colour day by day.

It reminds us of another stanza in another
poem of Tennyson's:

A violet by a mossy stone,
Half-hidden from the eye;
Fair as a star when only one
Is shining in the sky.

It is rather curious that, though few poets can write so
easily as Tennyson, and though it is a common
saying that he is the most beautiful poet of our
age, he is not the most beautiful poet of our
age, and he is not the most beautiful poet of our
age.

Agai, behold a splendid sun-rise, worthy of
any poet:
Morn in the white wake of the morning star
Came following all the orient into gold.

Here follows a short ballad-poem, very touch-
ing; most melodious; it is sweet, indeed, and
in all respects it is singularly beautiful:

Ask me no more; the moon may draw the sea;
The cloud may stop from heaven and take the shape,
With fold to fold, of mountain or of cape;
But O, too fond, when have I answered thee?

Ask me no more; what answer should I give?
I love not hollow words, or faded eyes;
Yet, O, my friend, I will not bid thee die!
Ask me no more, lest I should bid thee live;

Ask me no more; thy fate and mine are seal'd:
I strove against the stream, and all in vain;
No more, dear love, for at a touch I yield;
Ask me no more.

Better than this, and worse than other parts
of this "medley,"—this grotesque, or false sub-
lime,—we have not seen. Quitting this strange
diagonal, let us hope that our poet, who has
done so well, may never henceforward do worse.

Cum vero obijctis, ac sine ulla
Cum falso laudat, tunc et amice noceat.
Nil nimum. Satis est; non sit et hoc nimum.

REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE OF
THE HOUSE OF COMMONS ON THE
ADULTERATION OF FOOD.
No. X.

THE next article in reference to which Sir John
Gordon gave evidence was flour, large quantities of which
were exported from Cork. His testimony went to
show that there was no reason to suppose that adulteration
for exportation was in any way adulterated;
but the great competition among the poor caused the
mills to send into the home market a very inferior
quality of flour.

In reply to a question as to adulteration in
general, he said that since he became Mayor of Cork
he had himself examined adulteration was practised to
a fearful extent, and that unless some step
was taken the consequences might be very
public health. In reply to a question as to how
he proposed to stop adulteration, he said he
proposed to stop adulteration by stopping the
matter as they ought to be. He thought it was the
duty of the chief magistrate, in all cases where he
had reason to think an inferior article in the way of
food was being sold, to stop it.

With reference to the adulteration of drugs, he said he
invariably took it into his head when he saw an
article of food, or a drug, or a medicine, that he
thought it might be adulterated, and he had no
hesitation in saying that he had examined a great
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to be derived from surface percolation from gra-
vels, coals, and from the surface.

In reference to the adulteration of drugs the witness
(who is professor of chemistry in St. Thomas
Hospital) said that all the drugs used at that institution
were subjected to some examination. Very frequently
he had rejected drugs, in consequence of their adulteration
with foreign substances. He might say that one
third of the substances which he had examined he had
rejected either from impurity or adulteration. At one
time he was asked by the authorities at the hospital
whether he was being very familiar with
to name a drugist, but he was not very familiar with
men following that trade, he made inquiry and men-
tioned the name of one who was told, would
supply pure drugs. In the very first order the article
supplied contained two or three substances which
ought not to have been present. Since then all the
drugs were sent in by different chemists, marked by
letters, so that the authorities kept the best and re-
jected the worst. A drug committee was permanently
appointed in connexion with the hospital; they made
out a list of substances required, a copy of which was
sent to the best drugists' houses in London, and from
the specimens sent in were selected the best samples.
Adverting to the supply of medicines under the Poor
Law Act, he said that from his general knowledge of
the drug trade he believed the medicines which were
supplied under that Act were not likely to be the
best. He had been told that there were drugists at least
one individual in the trade, who would sell any powder
whatever at 3s. the cwt. When asked if the powder
which he had rejected was the best he could find
at that price—the fact being that he could dilute
with extraneous matters any drug whatever to any
value. This practically was certainly a fraud. Some-
times the article did not contain any of the substance by
the name of which it was sold, but he could dilute
the article with water, and he could dilute it with
30 to 40 per cent. of water. The article thus com-
pounded was sold as opium. The witness produced a
specimen of opium, which he said was a sample of
the finest article which could be obtained in London,
and yet it contained a large quantity of starch, and
to show that starch was not a necessary ingredient of
opium, he produced a specimen of that article
which he had rejected, and he said that it was a sample
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No. 56

On the 4th instant
North, the wife of Dr.
on the bed instant,
sickness, of a daughter.

On the 2nd instant
Wade, W. A. Smith,
W. A. Smith, son of
of the late Francis W.
On the 10th July,
T. A. Smith, son of
Cable, Esq., Sydney.

On the 4th instant,
James Thomas, son of
at Melbourne, on the
of Timothy and Edna
short time.

SHIP

STEAM TO R.
Wheat, every
PARHAMATTA
PELICAN
sailing at Ryde, on
From Newcastle
From Sydney at 4

STEAM TO W.
Wheat, every
SUELANA, leaves the
for the above place
11 o'clock p.m., sat-
and Thursdays.
A Thursday is a
Suebian - to Ryde
10 days to K

Between

Freights to

STEAM TO G.
SHAPTON, 10
On the 1st of the
WEDNESDAY BY
KIRCHNER and
July 1856, at
STEAM CONVEY
S. DINGINGS,
CLARENCE RIVER
From Sydney, on
on WEDNESDAY
leaves or part
from Sydney, on
to KIRCHNER

STEAM TO the
ship PAT
BORNING, at
from Sydney, on
will be no steamer
Company's Wheat

H. E. N. S. N. C.
August 3rd, 1856.

HUNTER RIVER
MANY
The Hunter is ar-
rived, the 25th in-
stant, from New South
Wales, and is de-
spatched as follow
From Sydney
From Morpeth
July 1856, at
above date.

Freight to the
Ditto from di

Between Sydney and
Ditto at Ryde, New
intermediate distan

H. E. N. S. N. C.
July 28th, 1856.

STEAM TO the
commander, T.

A. S. N. Co.'s W

NOTICE TO S
HUNTER.
Main, will further
from New South
Wales.

From Sydney
and the following
on the 1st of the
that date.

From Ryde
Ditto from di

Between Sydney and
Between ditto and
intermediate dist

A. S. N. Company
STEAM TO MEL
S. THE SHAN
will be despatched
at 1 p.m.

A. S. N. Company,
STEAM TO WIL
SHIP WARAT
be despatched as at
1 p.m.

A. S. N. Co.'s W

STEAM TO MEL
at Two-fort
leaves or part
commander, will be
at 10 instant, punctu
at Ryde, on
Pure
Ordinary freight,
Fruit and other

A. S. N. Company

DISCUSSION
BOURNE -
Apply to H. E.
steamer.

TELEGR
CITY OF
WILSONA
Saloon
Intermediate,
Including provision

A. S. N. Company

FOR MORPETH
Apply to H. E.
steamer.

FOR THE MA
F. NING, 50 ton
and will sail on
the 1st of the
CLARKE, Victor

FOR THE M
ALABAMA
leaves or part
commander, will be
for freight or pa

FOR THE MA
COBD, 30
leaves, and will
be freight or pa

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